



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

E1-2956
VJR

1120 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAY - 8 2007

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for inviting the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to be a cooperating agency for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the movement of Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Powder River Basin Expansion Project (PRB Project) coal trains over the Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad (IC&E) lines. The FRA completed adoption of the EIS for the PRB Project and committed in FRA's Record of Decision issued on January 31, 2007 to join the Surface Transportation Board in preparation of the IC&E EIS. FRA accepts the invitation and will be a cooperating agency for the IC&E EIS.

Please contact Mr. David Valenstein of this office regarding FRA participation in the preparation of the IC&E EIS. He may be reached at (202) 493-6368.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Yachmetz
Associate Administrator
For Railroad Development